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DAVID LEES, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.Ch.B.,
F.R.C.S.(Ed.), F.R.C.P.(Ed.), D.P.H., F.R.S.E.

WE regret to announce the death of Dr. David Lees at Edinburgh on March 25th, 1934.

His death, at the age of fifty-three, came suddenly and unexpectedly after a short illness. He had been at work until a few days before his death and a wide circle of friends could scarcely credit the news of his passing.

Dr. David Lees was educated at Ayr Academy and Edinburgh University. He graduated M.A., then M.B.Ch.B., in 1907. He had a distinguished undergraduate career, and on qualifying became a resident house surgeon in Edinburgh Royal Infirmary and later in the Royal Maternity Hospital and in Bangour Asylum.

From 1909 till 1914 Dr. Lees was in general practice in Northumberland. In 1914 he joined the R.A.M.C. and served with the Guards Brigade in France. Dr. Lees was wounded, was twice mentioned in despatches and was awarded the D.S.O. for conspicuous gallantry on the field.

While invalided from France in 1918 Dr. Lees graduated F.R.C.S.(Ed.), and was selected for special work in V.D. hospitals. He served at Millbank, Brighton Grove and Robroyston hospitals.

In 1919 Mr. Lees was appointed V.D. Officer to Derbyshire County Council, and six months later was appointed V.D. Officer to Edinburgh Corporation and lecturer in V.D. at Edinburgh University. Lees organised his work with tireless energy and great enthusiasm, and rapidly built up a large and busy treatment centre. His activities spread to the surrounding counties, and in a short time he had a comprehensive scheme for the south-east of Scotland. His special knowledge and experience were in constant demand, and much of his time was spent in consultation with the physicians and surgeons of the Royal Infirmary and other hospitals. Mr. Lees was a man of very wide interests, and in 1928 he became a member of the R.C.P. and a fellow in 1931,

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and in 1930 graduated D.P.H. In 1926 Mr. Lees spent six months in Cyprus, India and Burma, lecturing and advising the Provisional Governments. Professionally, he was noted for his very wide knowledge, but still more for the great enthusiasm and boundless energy which he devoted to his work. He was a clear and impressive teacher who inspired first awe and respect, but later love. He demanded a high standard of work, and his assistants found that a long and arduous course of training was demanded before they could claim to be trained.

Lees had the gift of inspiring confidence and affec-



tion in all his patients—he gave of his best freely to all alike, rich or poor. Many a grateful patient remembers the kindly word of encouragement, the home saved by his tact and the suffering relieved by his skilful attention.

He proved himself to be a very staunch supporter of the Medical Society for the Study of Venereal Diseases, as was evidenced by his frequent journeys from Edinburgh to London in furtherance of its interests, and also by the suggestions which he made with reference to the conduct of its affairs.

He became a member of the Council in 1922, and acted as President for the years 1930–31 and 1931–32.

Mr. Lees was a frequent contributor to medical litera-

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ture, and among his more important publications was a text-book for students and practitioners, and articles on keratadermia blenorrhagica, gonococcal arthritis, vaccine therapy, vulvo-vaginitis of children and neuro-syphilis. He was an enthusiastic member of the British Social Hygiene Council.

His wide knowledge and interests, his great enthusiasm and unfailing energy, inspired all who worked with him. His untimely death has deprived the world of a leader in his profession, and hundreds will mourn the passing of a great teacher and a true friend.